



NEWS RELEASE

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Kernan awards training grant to Terre Haute's Union Hospital Inc.

Indianapolis, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded a \$13,790 Incumbent Worker Training grant to Terre Haute's Union Hospital to upgrade the skills of four employees.

Union Hospital, Inc. is a not-for-profit medical center and serves western Indiana as the largest provider of health services between Indianapolis and St. Louis. Established in 1892 as a maternity hospital, the facility has grown from 20 beds to today's capacity of 343 beds. The hospital's primary mission is to serve community needs through the provision of a comprehensive range of quality, cost-effective health services.

"Indiana is making great strides in becoming a world leader in life sciences; in fact it's one of our fastest growing industries," said Kernan. "Every position, from bio-chemists to nurses and lab technicians, is vital to the life sciences initiative. That's why we are delighted to be able to assist Union Hospital as they prepare more people for this high-demand field."

Due to the ever-increasing need for technical specialists in the healthcare industry, the hospital developed an application and selection process whereby current employees can apply for the opportunity to be paid as full-time employees while attending college. This will allow Union Hospital to fill future anticipated openings in high demand technical areas.

The grant, which is leveraged by a \$192,693 match from the hospital, will allow two employees to pursue respiratory therapy associate degrees. One will earn an associate's degree in physical therapy and another will receive a bachelor's degree in radiation therapy. After achieving their respective degrees, these employees are guaranteed a full-time position in their area of study.

"Through our 'Grow Your Own' program, we have committed resources in the past to forward the educational and career options for a number of our employees. Because of this grant, we will be able to offer more opportunities to members of our staff," added Mike Chumley, the hospital's vice president of human resources.

Since 2001, DWD, through its Advance Indiana program, has obligated over \$1,500,000 to train more than 600 existing healthcare workers statewide. Credentials from training include licensed practical nurse certifications, associate degrees, and various technical and therapy driven licensing.

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

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Through its various programs and initiatives, the DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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